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**The Improved...**  
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The best apparatus made for lighting Private Residences,  
Churches, and Buildings of all kinds.  
Reflectors, Chandeliers, and  
Light and Heat Specialties Generally.

English Income Tax.  
The income tax was levied by Pitt as a war tax in 1798. It was repealed in 1816, revived in 1842, and extended to Ireland in 1853; of this tax 85.4 per cent. is collected in England, 9 in Scotland, and 5.0 in Ireland.  
The new billiard hall of Messrs. Fagan & Barber, over the House of David, 163 Clark street, is the finest in the city. Visit it.  
A new furnishing goods department has been added to Shays' State street store.

**GOLDBEATERS' WORK.**  
One Trade in Which No Improvement Has Been Made.  
"I was in the workshop of a goldbeater in New York recently for the first time in my life," said L. S. Tomlinson, of Chicago, at the Lindell. "Probably less is known of this interesting trade than of any other extant. The fact is that there are so few engaged in it by comparison with other industries. I was greatly interested in the process. The gold is melted and run into a small ingot making an oblong plate of absolutely pure gold. This is rolled in a hand rolling mill until it is strung out into several yards of gold ribbons, about as thick as parchment. This is cut up into pieces about an inch square, several hundred are placed beneath leaves of goldbeater's skin, the whole enclosed in a parchment cover. Then it is beaten for several hours. The leaves of gold spread under the beating, and they are each cut into four pieces. The beating process is continued, the pieces are again divided, and the process repeated until the gold is so thin that the slightest breath will blow it away.  
"I am told that this is one trade in which modern invention has made no improvement. Attempts to beat gold by machinery have utterly failed, because the stroke must not be uniform, but regulated by the striker according to the conditions. A false stroke of the hammer is sufficient to undo the work done at any stage and necessitates a fresh start, beginning with the melting-pot. Only one substance has ever been discovered which will serve to beat gold in. It is obtained from the intestines of cattle and subjected to a secret process. I am told that gold is beaten now as it was when Solomon's temple was decorated with gold leaf. Sometimes a crucible of gold breaks, or is upset in the furnace. The cinders and ashes are carefully gathered, beaten fine in a mortar and then washed by hand. Practically all the gold will be recovered in this way. Flying particles of gold leaf, as fine as dust, settle all over the shop. The sweepings of the shop are saved, burned and the ashes washed, and yield a sum in gold annually."  
—St. Louis Globe-Democrat

**Travelers' Tales—The Mirage.**  
The mirage can be seen nearly every day in the plains of Lower Egypt, and also to a limited extent in the plains of Hungary and Southern France. Now and then something of the kind can be seen in summer by stooping down and looking along our sandy coasts, such as Morecambe Bay and the coast of Devonshire, or over the Fen district, at that season dried up by the summer heat.  
We must remember that the mirage of the desert creates nothing, but merely inverts bodies that actually exist a little distance off; though in the Sahara skylight rays descending are bent upward by the hot air next the sand, and the eye is actually deluded by an impression resembling the reflection of skylight from water, the illusion being increased by the flickering due to convection currents, suggesting the effects of a breeze on the water.  
Many of the descriptions given of the mirage are "travelers' tales" in the uncomplimentary sense. One of the most absurdly extravagant examples of this is the following: "This treacherous phenomenon deludes the traveler's eye with a regular succession of beautiful lakes and shady avenues, and then, again, with an expanse of waving grass around a picturesque villa; here is presented a grove of towering trees; there is a flock of browsing cattle."—Chambers' Journal.

**Oldest Living Officer.**  
Eighty-three years a soldier! This may be said of Michael Moore, whose name appears on the Army Register, where it has been carried since April, 1812, when he enlisted as a musician from New York. He says he is the oldest living officer of the United States army, and there are probably not many older in any of the world's armies. He ran away from home when he was 12 years old and enlisted as a drummer in Capt. Sproull's company of the Thirtieth Regiment, United States Infantry, of which Col. Schuyler was the commander, and which was stationed at the time at Greenbush, opposite Albany. He took part with his regiment in the campaign on the Canadian frontier, and is still fond of telling about the battles of Queenston, Stony Creek, and Fort George. He remained in the service at a recruiting station till January, 1839, when he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Ninth United States Infantry. He was placed upon the retired list by reason of "disability from old age" Dec. 10, 1870, and has lived since then with his wife and two daughters and son at No. 20 Seventh avenue, New York.

"You think you know it all now, don't you?" "Me? Lord, no. I'm married."—Syracuse Post.  
It is wonderful how many bad things a good man can be guilty of.